

REMARKS

A. Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that the subject matter of claims 10, 12-15, 18 and 21-25 is allowable (when re-written in independent form). Accordingly, the Applicants have placed the subject matter of claim 12 into independent claim 1 along with the subject matter of intervening claim 2. The Applicants have made similar changes to independent claims 18 and 26. Further, the Applicants have revised the dependencies of the remaining claims to depend on either independent claim 1, 18 or 26.

B. Entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection ("Amendment")

Entry of this Amendment is solicited because it: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issues regarding further search and/or consideration; (c) does not present any additional claims without canceling the corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, if an appeal is necessary.

C. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of the remaining claims.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3777 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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